

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5

**DATE:** February 3, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on January 27, 2006

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by other significant developments and training/conferences:

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Visit, Chicago, Illinois**

On January 11, 2006, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 met with staff members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Representing the committee were Katherine E. English, Majority Counsel, and Alex H. Herrgott, Staff Assistant. Attendees from the Superfund Division were Richard Karl, Director, and Mark Horwitz and Silvia Palomo of the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS). The staff members of the committee requested to meet with Region 5 to discuss how the Region implements and enforces the Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations. They also wanted to know more about an ongoing project involving agricultural anhydrous ammonia retailers in Illinois. In 2004 a contract was awarded to Illinois Department of Agriculture to conduct 500 inspections of agricultural anhydrous ammonia retailers. The results of these inspections indicated widespread noncompliance among these facilities with the RMP regulations. To address the problem CEPPS has offered these facilities the opportunity to attend a four-hour industry specific RMP training

in lieu of a penalty. After taking the training, the facilities will address the violations and certify compliance with the RMP regulations.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Risk Management Program Training for Ammonia (NH3) Facilities, Peoria, Illinois**

On January 23, 2006, Risk Management Program (RMP) training was conducted at the Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association, Inc., conference in Peoria, Illinois. The training was held at the Civic Center and was attended by 211 individuals representing 75 companies. Presenters for the training program were staff from the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS), consisting of Mark Horwitz, Greg Chomycia, Monika Chrzaszcz, Bob Mayhugh, Silvia Palomo, and Edward Bordy; and William Wagner of the Office of Regional Council. The training covered the RMP regulation and more specifically how this regulation applies to the ammonia (NH3) community. This training arose from an identified need in the NH3 community for compliance assistance with the RMP program.

Contact: Mark Horwitz (312-353-9045)

#### **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (EPCRA) Section 312 Training, Novi, Michigan**

James Entzminger, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section, attended the January 17 training held in Novi, Michigan. Approximately 100 participants from industry, government, and academic communities attended the training. Ms. Susan Parker, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), provided all the instruction, which included an overview of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), release reporting requirements, emergency planning, and chemical inventory reporting. A number of practical exercises were also used to help participants understand the reporting requirements. Mr. Entzminger acted as a resource person and assisted in answering questions.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (EPCRA) Section 312  
Training, Kalamazoo, Michigan**

On January 19, 2006, James Entzminger, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section, attended the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) training held in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Approximately 50 participants from industry, government, and academic communities attended the event. Ms. Susan Parker, MDEQ, provided all the instruction, which included an overview of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), release reporting requirements, emergency planning, and chemical inventory reporting. A number of practical exercises were also used to help participants understand the reporting requirements. Mr. Entzminger acted as a resource person and assisted in answering questions.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

cc: Tom Dunne (OSWER)  
Barry Breen (OSWER)  
Ed Chu (OSWER)  
David Lopez (OSWER)  
Ernie Watkins (OSWER)  
Susan Bromm (OECA)  
Phyllis Harris (OECA)  
Mike Cook (OERR)  
Dana Tulis (OERR)  
Elizabeth Southerland (OERR)  
Larry Zaragoza (OERR)  
Craig Beasley (OERR)  
Joshua Barber (FFRO)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers